



## THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Steven M. Knowles

Art Unit : 3679

S/Act A  
LA  
12-17-02

Serial No. : 09/982,928

Examiner : Victor L. MacArthur

Filed : October 22, 2001

Title : FLEXIBLE JOINT ASSEMBLY, SERVICE, AND SYSTEM USING A  
FLEXIBLE JOINT ASSEMBLYCommissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231AMENDMENT

In response to the action mailed September 16, 2002 ("Office Action"), please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 30-40 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 21-26 as follows:

*Sub a)* --21. (Amended) A flexible joint assembly comprising:

a joint assembly inlet;

a joint assembly outlet; and

a fluid flow path between the inlet and the outlet, the fluid flow path

including:

a first pivot joint configured to pivot about a first pivot (P1);

a second pivot joint configured to pivot about a second pivot (P2);

and

*A.* a central fluid conductor fluidly coupling the first pivot joint and the second pivot joint, each of the first pivot joint and the second pivot joint including:

an inner member having a dimension (D) in a direction

substantially normal to a path through each of the pivot joint assemblies' inlet and outlet;

a receiving member dimensioned to receive at least part of

the inner member; and

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